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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/084,256      | 02/27/2002  | Raymond Jay Barry    | 2000-0241.02        | 2017             |

7590 05/07/2004  
NEEDLE & ROSENBERG, P.C.  
The Chandler Building, Suite 1200  
127 Peachtree Street, N.E.  
Atlanta, GA 30303-1811

| EXAMINER              |              |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| STEWART JR, CHARLES W |              |
| ART UNIT              | PAPER NUMBER |
| 2853                  |              |

DATE MAILED: 05/07/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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|                              |                                     |                              |           |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | Application No.<br>10/084,256       | Applicant(s)<br>BARRY ET AL. |           |
|                              | Examiner<br>Charles W. Stewart, Jr. | Art Unit<br>2853             | <i>ms</i> |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
  - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-74 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-74 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)            |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____  |

***Election/Restrictions***

Group I in claims 1-23 and 42-74 are related to an apparatus and method for fluid level management in a media coating system.

Group II in claims 24-41 is related to a fluid level detection sensor for measuring a media coating fluid level in a media coating system.

Inventions related to an apparatus and method for fluid level management in a media coating system is related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)).

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different in combination and subcombination, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Applicant is required under 35 U. S. C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted is no generic claim is finally held to be allowable.

Applicant is advised that a response to this requirement must include an identification of elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims readable thereon, including any claims

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subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the election. MPEP § 809.02(a).

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the combination and subcombination to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

A telephone call was made to Ms. Jennifer Medlin on April 22, 2004 to request an oral election to the above restriction requirement, but did not result in an election being made.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement is traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at

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least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(l).

***Contact Information***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Charles Stewart, Jr., whose telephone number is (571) 272-2154. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Charles Stewart, Jr.

April 26, 2004



Stephen D. Meier  
Primary Examiner


Bldg/Room

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